

Text of emails related to "Women Crowned in Glory" NPG

Questions and Reponses regarding NPG – response forwarded by Mike on June 4

Comments regarding NPG application
from Women Crowned in Glory Inc. DBA Safe Passages

General Concern: **In general, Neighborhood Purpose Grants are intended to be used to provide direct assistance to help address immediate needs. The proposed project appears to provide indirect assistance by sharing a book about the emotional value of giving to others with families that are experiencing domestic violence. It does not appear to be designed to provide direct services to individuals/families who need to urgently get out of an abusive situation.**

Questions for the agency:

1. What services does your agency currently provide to victims of domestic abuse in the Van Nuys community? How many people have been served in the past year? As a business based in Van Nuys, we provide counseling, mentorship, resume workshops, health workshops, plastic surgery, dental work and then we provide make-overs from the inside to outside.

Since, January 2020 we have counseled 50 adult and have 150 children in their network who we provide services on as needed basis. In addition. they are also receiving new clients from their relationship with Hope of the Family which is homeless shelter providing housing and food.

2. How did you determine that the main assistance that current victims of domestic violence need is to receive a book that encourages them to focus on giving to others? Since, we are going through a pandemic that we have literally never seen anything like this in our lifetime. Due to the mandated lockdown people are stressed and depressed. The abuse has skyrocketed because the woman and children are at home with the abuser due to mandate to stay at home. In addition, people are acting out as evidence of the death in Minnesota over racial profiling and the riots this weekend as reaction across the USA. Domestic violence and abuse has grown to 35% and continues expand due to the Corona Virus.

Domestic violence is a learned behavior from one's environment. Children do not evaluate what they see in their home. They interpret that as normal. If parents beat one another, they will repeat this pattern in their life. The

book, *Random Acts of Kindness are Changing the World* theme on kindness offers a tool to break that cycle. If parents can take the time to read to their children and discuss the stories together it changes the conversation from hurt to helping others. Since libraries are closed down it gives families material they can use and turn to each day or in trying and difficult times

Health Research from the Kaiser Center recommends kindness is preventive measure. One of the benefits of kindness is in helping someone else we feel better about ourselves. In addition, we will be showcasing stories of kids receiving the books from a Hollywood star with a history of doing voice-overs acting out famous characters. We will work on sharing this with the community by doing a video recording on a cell phone, camera, or zoom and is shared as live event on facebook which is called live-streaming where we are reading to the kids via zoom who are at home listening just like school. If people can learn kindness this that can prevent these children from continuing the cycle of violence, substance abuse and domestic violence.

3. What are the demographic characteristics of the individuals who are to be offered a book? How will these persons be identified?

How will families that do not speak English be served? The children are 5-18 and adults 19-65. The people will be identified though the network of 150 children who we counsel on as needed basis. They also serve another agency, Hope of the Valley which is continuing to get more homeless family with 30% unemployment There about five employees who speak Spanish and there are a number of volunteers who also speak Spanish. As TEDx speaker author and bilingual, I live within 10 minutes from Crowned in Gloria, dba Safe Passage in Van Nuys which is close enough to visit the agency in mask to handout the book, meet with the individuals to talk about kindness via the zoom meeting following government restrictions. Kindness is preventive measure which I practice daily and have seen phenomenal results and recorded in textbook as the answer to depression and many other psychological issues.

4. Given the current restrictions on social interactions due to COVID-19, how will the agency interact with the target individuals and families?

Due to Covid-19 there are currently meeting with clients via zoom. We also have the ability to meet one to one in their office adhering to the government regulations mandating no group larger than 10 people can meet and must follow the social distancing rules. We follow the procedures required to follow Covid-19 procedures. The agency has 150 families and children in their network to reach out on a as needed basis. Books can also be mailed or distributed through Hope of the Valley which deals with housing and providing food to the homeless. We have been working together for over 5 year as a mutual resource and books will also be distributed to

Hope of the Valley with their changing clients who are homeless to the nearly 20% unemployed.

5. Regarding the budget:

a. Please provide more details for each budget line item.

The book cost 922 includes the printing, shipping and taxes. The remaining 722 is directed to the City of Van Nuys. The family member may live outside the area. One benefit is the rest of the world, will have an opportunity to see what is happening and decided to give back to the city of Van Nuys which monies could be used to help the schools and the greater community. We also have the opportunity to bring in outside sponsors for potentially 5,000 which is well above the amount requested in the grant. Would that additional support be a problem?

b. How was it determined that 200 books are needed? Based upon on their need due to the ever increasing rate of domestic violence with this pandemic. We have found over 200 children who are at greatest risk of becoming future perpetrator. Violence is learned as normal from one's upbringing and this acts as a deterrent to reduce the cycle of violence. This can become a joint family activity where the parent reads to the child and we discuss how it works in their live. The book was created out of a classroom situation activity teaching highs school and college students (the same demographic group we are targeting) to overcome the fear of speaking. The unanticipated outcome of the activity was the calming effect felt by the students after reading or sharing these stories. The results were so powerful the students demanded to continue the actions and reporting the outcome among themselves. Science has proven when you read positive stories the body is overflowing with endorphins which makes the reader feel good as they read these stories. In addition, we wanted more and everyone. The distribution of "Random Acts of Kindness" can be one positive source that can help people feel better and change our world today.

c. Why is VNNC being asked to cover expenses for a "media campaign" that will reach a much wider geographic area than Van Nuys?

Every non-profit survives or perishes based on the ability to share their story of success to attract other clients and funding to their organization. Safe passage has been doing promotions for a very long time and the small amount requested will likely be a smaller amount to what the City of Van Nuys and Van Nuys Neighborhood Council will get in return. Normal production cost with many studios can run into thousand of dollars well exceeding the 722 we are requesting.

We would begin doing a campaign starting with Safe Passage in Van Nuys telling the success stories of the kind act clients are doing as a result of this

book. Sharing our story in social media will allow people in Van Nuys better than the email or Nextdoor to receive the benefit of the message on kindness to help people who can't physically leave their home .We provide our services zoom to have the staff meet with their clients to receive their services. Domestic violence is family disease and can use the technology of the media to reach out to extended family.

Email to Sam and Veronica on June 10 volunteering to follow up with applicant

NPG regarding "kindness" and domestic violence



Kathy Schreiner <kkswestla@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 10, 12:24 PM

to mike.browning, sam.woolf, veronica.marin, kathy.schreiner

Hi Mike, Sam, and Veronica.

I want to both volunteer and inquire whether you would want me to interact directly with this applicant. I am uncertain about taking on this role, because what I would want to do is try to help them understand why an NPG is probably not an appropriate source for funding their project.

I understand everything that was included in the text document responding to our concerns that Mike forwarded, as well as the comments made over the phone. I feel badly that they got the invitation to submit an NPG application without at the same time receiving an orientation to the purpose of NPGs. I honor that Mike has done everything in his power to try to help them put their case before the Budget and Finance Committee.

Mike, FYI, what we said was that we were deferring the item to the next Budget and Finance Committee, but I am not surprised that they were not clear about this.

If you approve, Mike can give me the contact information for Rosalynn and I will initiate a conversation with her.

Best, Kathy

June 26th call with applicant, followed by summary e-mail to Veronica and Sam

Message Detail



Subject: Had conversation with NPG proposer about domestic violence

From: Kathy Schreiner <kkswestla@gmail.com>[\(Add as Preferred Sender\)](#)

Date: Fri, Jun 26, 2020 5:32 pm

To: veronica.marin@vnnc.org, sam.woolf@vnnc.org, mike.browning@vnnc.org, kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org

Hi friends.

I had a 30 minute conversation this afternoon with two people associated with the NPG application regarding distributing copies of the book *Random Acts of Kindness* to families experiencing domestic violence. They still want a chance to present their proposed project to the Budget & Finance Committee. I told them that I would get in touch with Veronica to find out when the committee will be meeting. **Veronica, what is the date of the next meeting of Budget and Finance?**

I tried to convince them that the Neighborhood Council was probably not the appropriate source of funding for their project. I told them that we tended to fund projects that met an immediate need. They countered that a preventative strategy was more cost-effective than the cost of dealing with a problem once it develops (such as drug use or suicide). I said I completely understood what they were saying but that it would be difficult to have any idea about the impact the project had on specific families. We discussed that the book they want to distribute is only in English. They countered that Rosalyn, book author who is bilingual, could read the book in a Zoom meeting with various families -- or that the children who learn English in school could read to their parents.

The best outcome would be that they might decide that maybe the time is not right for this project. They did mention a volunteer activity they would like to do with the Van Nuys library (once it reopens) where the author could read the book to young people and inspire them to think about acts of kindness they could do.

Anyway, did my best.

Kathy

First e-mail on July 2nd to Veronica and Sam about need to discuss NPG



Kathy Schreiner <kkswestla@gmail.com> Thu, Jul 2, 1:42 PM

to **veronica.marin, sam.woolf, mike.browning, kathy.schreiner**

Veronica and Sam,

The person i spoke with last Friday is asking when the Budget and Finance meeting will be (see her email). Saw Sam's email about changing general Board meeting to 7/15. Veronica, can we have a Budget and Finance Comm. meeting the week of July 6th?

Kathy

Followup e-mail on July 2nd to Veronica and Sam about NPG item missing from the agenda

B&F agenda does not include the NPG regarding project to help victims of domestic violence



Kathy Schreiner <kkswestla@gmail.com> Jul 2, 2020, 11:12 PM

to **sam.woolf, veronica.marin, mike.browning, kathy.schreiner**

Hi Sam and Veronica.

The agenda for B&F does not include the NPG that was not discussed at the last meeting because it was not on the agenda. Please revise the agenda!!

Here is the item from the 5/25 B&F agenda:

8. NPG Women Crowned in Glory, Inc DBA Safe Passages by providing funds for this grant, they will provide 200 copies of the book "Random Acts of Kindness are Changing the World" to deal with the increase in domestic abuse as a result of the mandated home lockdown due to the pandemic on daily basis with very limited fund in Van Nuys. NTE\$2000

Also, there were several items from the special Board meeting discussion of the budget that were referred to B&F for consideration and development of a recommendation. One I recall was the idea of setting up an emergency fund. Shouldn't this be an item on the agenda?

Best.
Kathy

Notice to applicant on July 3rd about July Budget and Finance meeting

Agenda for VNNC Business & Finance Committee meeting on Monday, July 6th



Kathy Schreiner <kkswestla@gmail.com> Fri, Jul 3, 7:08 PM

to Rosalyn, sam.woolf, veronica.marin, bcc: mike.browning

Hello Rosalyn.

I apologize for this late notice to you. It took a while to get the next Budget and Finance Committee scheduled. Due to the holiday, it was decided to move our General Board meeting this month to July 15th. This is the reason that there was a delay in scheduling the Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

See attached agenda. Your item is #4. The meeting will start around 6 p.m.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Kathy
Member VNNC

July 6th email from applicant



Rosalyn Kahn Jul 6, 2020, 5:55 PM

meeting id is not
correct.

July 13th email from applicant



Rosalyn Kahn Mon, Jul 13, 2:14 PM

to **mike.browning, kathy.schreiner, sam.woolf**, me

I understand there is a meeting tonight for the VNNC. Does this mean I will be on the agenda this evening? Please let me know as soon as possible .

Rosalyn

July 13th response to applicant



Kathy Schreiner <kkswestla@gmail.com> Jul 13, 2020, 9:16 PM

to **veronica.marin, Rosalyn, mike.browning, kathy.schreiner, sam.woolf**

Hi Rosalyn.

I am glad we were able to speak by phone today, so I could let you know that your NPG application was not going to be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting tonight or at the General Board Meeting on Wednesday.

The head of the Budget and Finance Committee said that she will hold the next Budget and Finance Committee meeting in August. I will let you know when a date is set and an agenda published.

Be well.

Kathy